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P U B L I C   H E A L T H   S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:  
J.Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :  
A.F.J.Webb, M.A.H.I., A.R.S.H.



Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1960.

As you know, the Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population includes those long-stay patients admitted to the St. Lawrence's Hospital. The number of deaths amongst the group is relatively high and gives a false impression in the town's vital statistics. A standard factor is given to compensate for this bias for comparison with rates for other areas. I have also included figures which relate to Borough residents, allowing for an average population of 1,000 in St. Lawrence's Hospital.

The general health of the district appeared to be satisfactory. During the whole year, only one notification of infectious disease was recorded. No dysentery was reported for St. Lawrence's Hospital. The general provision of Health Services was in the main adequate, though the future of the local Hospital is uncertain. It has been appreciated that the facilities for outpatient departments at the East Cornwall Hospital have been inadequate for existing needs. The demand for new X-Ray facilities at both the East Cornwall Hospital and St. Lawrence's Hospital has resulted in the suggestion that the present outpatients' departments may ultimately be transferred to the St. Lawrence's Hospital. The separation of the General Wards of the East Cornwall Hospital from the ancillary services would be a great handicap and it is envisaged that they too may finally be transferred. The problem to be considered is the balance between a more efficient service provided by a new unit against the public reaction to combining general and mental illness and the possible loss of the excellent public relationship and esteem which the East Cornwall Hospital rightfully enjoys, in spite of its material deficiencies. Provided the latter can be safeguarded, the public would undoubtedly benefit from the transfer.

Development, both for housing and industry continued at a fairly quick pace. The Council's Housing estates have now been opened to private developers, leaving the Council free to re-develop areas of old property in the centre of the town. It was appreciated that the new development would require considerable extension to the sanitary services and steps have already been taken in constructing a new sewage works to cater for the new buildings. The demand for increased water supplies has been borne in mind and proposals to supplement the present supply are already in hand. It is envisaged that the refuse disposal service will also have to be enlarged. The new North Cornwall Water Board has now been established, but I must remind the Council that the duty to ensure that the district has "an adequate supply of wholesome water" is still theirs, and I trust that the Council will continue to press for those improvements in the present system which will bring this about.



STATISTICS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Mid-Year Population	6,170
Area in Acres	3,312
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,579
Rateable Value	£65,097
Product of Penny Rate	£256.10.0d. .

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Live Births Registered, 1960.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	49	38	87
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	49	38	87
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	14.1		
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ,			
England & Wales	17.1		
Comparable Birth Rate	18.91		

Stillbirths.

Two stillbirths were registered, one male and one female.

Deaths.

There were 165 deaths registered during the year, 67 were male, 98 were female. Four occurred within the first year of life and of these two within the first week. Only 61 of the deaths registered related to residents of the Borough. The remainder occurred in the St. Lawrence's Hospital.

Crude Death Rate, based on 165 deaths	= 26.7 per 1,000 population.
Crude Death Rate based on 61 deaths	= 12.2 per 1,000 population.
Death Rate for England & Wales	= 11.5 per 1,000 population.
Comparable Death Rate	= 9.3 per 1,000 population.

Deaths by Diseases. (Borough Residents).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Heart Disease	19	11	30
Cardiovascular Disease	2	5	7
Cancer	5	5	10
Respiratory Disease	4	2	6
Accident	1	3	4
Other causes	3	1	4
	34	27	61





Deaths by Age. (Borough Residents).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
0 - 1	2	2	4
1 - 10	-	1	1
11 - 20	1	-	1
21 - 40	-	2	2
41 - 60	3	3	6
61 - 70	12	7	19
71 - 80	8	6	14
81 +	8	6	14
	<u>34</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>61</u>

II. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital Services.

General Medical and Surgical needs are supplied mainly by the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. Outpatient departments for Medicine, Surgery, Chest Diseases, Orthopaedic Surgery are available at the East Cornwall Hospital, Bodmin with 26 beds for admissions. The St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin, caters for the needs of the mentally ill for the greater part of the County.

County Council Services.

Ambulance Service. The County Council depot in the town provides adequate ambulance coverage. The personnel are now full-time and all vehicles have radio communication.

Infant Welfare. The Child Welfare Centre is open on the first three Tuesdays of each month. The first session is an immunisation clinic, the second is for the examination of infants and the third for toddlers. The average attendance during the year was 20.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. The town was served by two nurses undertaking the combined duties, with a part-time nurse assisting in general duties.

Home Help Service. Domestic help on medical need was provided by the County Council through its Home Help Service operated by the W.V.S. The greatest demand is in relation to the elderly and chronic sick.

Immunisation and Vaccination. The programme of immunisation and vaccination includes protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. They are available, with the exception of the latter through the general practitioner, the Infant Welfare Service and School Health Service. Protection against tuberculosis is obtained in the case of contacts through the Chest Clinic, and in the case of School children, through the school health service.

School Health Service. The physical condition of children examined at routine inspection was satisfactory, the number classified as unsatisfactory being negligible. Premises were overcrowded. All are now supplied with paper towels, though not all with hot water. The new County Secondary school will certainly emphasise the deficiencies in the old school premises, and it is hoped that the energies of the Education Authority may soon be diverted to their improvement.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. The Bodmin Water Company continued to supply water to the Town, though the North Cornwall Water Board was provisionally established. Forty samples of treated water were submitted for bacteriological examination, all but one being found to be satisfactory. Deficiencies were still reported in the higher levels of the town, and discoloration was a continuous complaint throughout the year. The majority of houses are supplied with water direct to the house; the number supplied by stand pipes is not known, but must be very small.





Sewage. The Borough is sewered by two treatment works at Scarletts Well and Dragon Pits, but a third works is under construction at Blowinghouse which is scheduled for completion in June, 1961. The latter works will cater for the west end of the town and is designed to serve a total of 500 houses, i.e. 62,500 gallons per day, included are 288 houses which will be taken into the works thus alleviating to some degree the overloading at Scarletts Well. Effluent samples taken during the year have not all been satisfactory and the Council are considering an engineer's report on the works and their recommendations for modernisation. Extension to sewers have been made in Mid Lanes for the industrial Building Sites and for the new housing sites in Rock Lane and Crabtree Lane.

Refuse Disposal. The tip at Dragon Pits is fast running out and consideration will need to be given during the coming year to a new site. Whilst all premises receive a weekly collection (business premises being collected free, 2 to 3 times per week according to need), the growth of the town is making the maintaining of this service very difficult, and the time is arising when a complete review of the collection service will be necessary.

Rodent Control. Minor infestations of rats and mice have been dealt with, and a test bait of sewers produced a negative result. The operative attended a three-day refresher course at Truro.

#### Public Health Inspections.

##### Summary of Visits.

Council Properties	314
Private Houses	301
Food Premises	43
Slaughter Houses	274
Others	121

Nine informal notices were served in relation to defects observed or complained of. No formal notices were required to secure remedy.

The Pet Shop licence was renewed.

#### IV. HOUSING.

The lower section of Downing Street was redeveloped with 16 Flats and a scheme is in hand for the redevelopment on the western side at the lower end of Downing Street. Twenty eight bungalows were completed in Rock Lane and St. George's Crescent, 18 further bungalows being in course of construction on the west side of Rock Lane. Thirteen private houses were built during the year and plans are prepared for 117 low priced houses at the western end of the town and also 18 bungalows and houses are in course of erection at Crabtree Lane. The Council have undertaken to provide housing facilities for the key workers of the proposed industrial sites at Dunmore Road.

No further cases were considered under the Rent Act. Action under the Housing Act resulted in 2 Demolition Orders being served and the placing of 6 Closing Orders on various premises and parts of premises.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960. One Site has been licensed for Seasonal Caravans (22) at Dunmore and consideration is being given to the position of the site at Cooksland.

#### V. FOOD AND DRUGS.

Ice Cream. No new licences for the sale of ice-cream were issued.

Milk Distribution. The supervision of milk distributors has now passed to the County Council.

Slaughter of Animals. The two privately owned slaughterhouses continued to operate throughout the year. The following Table relates to types of animals slaughtered and the results of inspection:-



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Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number Killed	265	-	24	534	424
Number Inspected	265	-	24	534	424
<u>All Diseases except</u> <u>T.B. &amp; Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole Carcasses	-	-	3	2	2
Carcase of which some part or organ as condemned	38	-	-	1	-
Percentage affected	14.34	-	-	.18	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole Carcase	1	-	-	-	-
Part or organ	-	-	-	-	4
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	.94
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

VI. FACTORIES.

The following table shows the work undertaken and results in the inspection of registered factories in the Borough:-

<u>PREMISES.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	21	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	39	21	Nil	Nil



Particulars  (1)	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted.  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (4)	By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	3	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).....					
Total	3	3	-	2	-
No outworkers were recorded during 1960.					

VII. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Only one notifiable disease was recorded during the year - one of pulmonary tuberculosis. The proportion of children protected with triple vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough) and poliomyelitis vaccine during the year was 82.2% in each case. A similar response to mantoux testing and B.C.C. vaccination against tuberculosis was experienced. Mass radiography findings in school leavers were insignificant.



